

BLUEPRINTS PREFACE
SCIENCE TESTS REQUIRED BY
THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

These are the blueprints for the science tests required by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Beginning in 2007, NCLB requires each state to administer, at least once in grade spans 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12, standards-based science tests each year. The tests are designed to measure the science concepts and skills that all students within the designated grades should know and understand.

Currently, there exists a grade 5 California Standards Test (CST) in science that assesses grades 4 and 5 science standards and meets NCLB requirements. Science tests that meet the NCLB criteria for grade spans 6-9 and 10-12 will be administered at grade 8 and at grade 10. The Grade 8 Test will assess all of the Grade 8 science standards. The High School Life Science Test will assess selected middle school life science standards and selected high school biology standards.

Blueprints for the Grade 8 and High School Life Science Tests are provided here. The "Standards Assessed" column shows the standards tested and numbers of questions included on the tests. As the blueprints indicate, the tests consist of 66 multiple-choice questions, including 60 operational questions and 6 embedded field test questions. Except for the Investigation and Experimentation standards, ✓ marks indicate the standards assessed. A distinction is made between the content statement that precedes each set of standards and the standards that are actually being assessed, i.e., Grade 8, Standard Set 2. Forces:

Unbalanced forces cause changes in velocity. As a basis for understanding this concept:

a. *Students know a force has both direction and magnitude.*

Lastly, a reference sheet that includes the periodic table of elements and selected formulas and conversions is provided for the Grade 8 test.